

## Message Text

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44

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 /082 W

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R 131420Z JUL 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1122

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT BAGHDAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF IZ

SUBJECT: REPORT OF EXECUTION OF KURDISH REFUGEES

REF: GENEVA 5181

1. AT REQUEST OF UNHCR, MISOFF MET WITH AGENCY OFFICIALS ARNAOUT AND LYONETTE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION ABOUT ALLEGED REFOULMENT AND EXECUTIONS OF KURDISH REFUGEES.
2. OFFICIALS PREFACED CONVERSATION BY STATING THAT ANY UNHCR INVESTIGATION IS DIFFICULT SINCE THE ORGANIZATION HAS NO REPRESENTATIVE IN IRAQ AND THEREFORE CANNOT QUERY GOVERNMENT ABOUT SITUATION.
3. ACCORDING TO SOURCES AVAILABLE TO UNHCR IN IRA, THERE WAS NO MASSIVE FORCED REPATRIATION OF KURDS FROM IRAN TO IRAQ. ON CONTRARY, KURDS WENT BACK WILLINGLY AND WITH ENCOURAGEMENT OF KURDISH LEADERSHIP. HEADS OF FAMILIES OR SINGLE INDIVIDUALS (HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD) SIGNED FORMS WHICH STATED THAT THEY WANTED TO RETURN TO IRAQ. UNHCR SAYS THERE MAY HAVE BEEN PRESSURE ON PART OF IRAQ GOVERNMENT BUT KURDS ACQUIESCED.

4. SOURCES IN IRAN TOLD UNHCR THAT IF ARRESTS AND EXECUTIONS

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TOOK PLACE VICTIMS WERE PROBABLY MEMBERS OF KURDISH

POPULATION WHICH NEVER LEFT IRAQ. LYONETTE SAID THIS WAS THE CONCLUSION ARRIVED AT NY KURDS HE TALKED WITH IN FRANKFURT WHO WERE MIGRATING TO THE US. ARNAOUT AND LYONETTE POINTED OUT THAT THOSE WHO REMAINED IN IRAQ WERE NOT REFUGEES, ANOTHER ASPECT WHICH PRECLUDES A UNHCR INVESTIGATION.

5. CORROBORATION OF EXECUTIONS AND ARRESTS OF REPATRIATED GROUP ARE NEVER VERIFIED BY KURDISH LEADERS IN EUROPE WHEN DDDETAILS ARE REQUESTED. IN IRAN, GOODYEAR (UNHCR REP) HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SUBSTANTIATE CHARGES.

6. UNHCR ACKNOWLEDGES THAT REPATRIATED KURDS HAVE NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO RETURN TO ORIGINAL HOMELAND (I.E., KURDISH ANCESTRAL DISTRICTS IN IRAQ). LYONETTE ADDED THAT WHILE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS PROBABLY OCCUR WITH RESPECT TO KURDS IN IRAQ, THEY SHOULD BE TAKEN UP THROUGH OTHER UN CHANNELS, E.G. THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

7. COMMENT: SINCE IT APPEARS THAT UNHCR IS UNABLE TO CONDUCT ANY THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO THIS MATTER, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO SUGGEST THAT KURDISH AMERICAN SOCIETY CONTACT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL OR OTHER GROUPS WHO COULD VISIT AND INVESTIGATE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. IF ALLEGATIONS ARE SUBSTANTIATED ISSUE COULD BE BROUGHT BEFORE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.DALE

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